

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to better distinguish over the applied references. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gunjima (US-RE 38,305) and Broer (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,670). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal display device, including at least a lower polarizer having a light diffusing layer and a reflective polarizer disposed in that order on an outer surface of the lower polarizer, the reflective polarizer having a transmissive polarization axis, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, Gunjima discloses that light from a florescent lamp 1 introduces light on a side portion of a flat light guide 3. See Figs. 1 and 2.

Broer discloses that external incident light is reflected by the reflective polarizer 9. See Fig. 1. However, the cholesteric layer 12 in Broer does not have a polarization axis. Instead, because the layer is a cholesteric filter or cholesteric polarizer, the cholesteric layer 12 in Broer inherently has a helix that transmits only light that is circularly polarized with a certain rotation direction, e.g., clockwise direction. See col. 4, lines 30-35 and 53-59.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the applied references do not disclose or suggest at least a lower polarizer having a light diffusing layer and a reflective polarizer disposed in that order on an outer surface of the lower polarizer, the reflective polarizer having a transmissive polarization axis. On the contrary, nowhere in the applied references are these features disclosed or suggested.

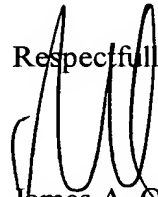
Thus, any combination of Gunjima and Broer would not have resulted in the claimed invention. Accordingly, because it would not have been obvious to combine the applied

references to arrive at the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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